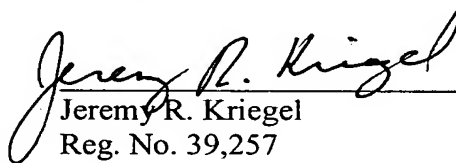


### REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is for the purpose of amending the claims in order to bring them into accordance with standard U.S. claims practice and to place them in better condition for examination. It is understood that no fees are necessary in connection with the present Preliminary Amendment. However, in the event any fees are due, kindly charge the cost thereof to our Deposit Account No. 13-2855.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jeremy R. Kriegel  
Reg. No. 39,257

Date: December 29, 2003

Marshall, Gerstein & Borun LLP  
6300 Sears Tower  
233 South Wacker Drive  
Chicago, IL 60606-6357  
Phone: (312) 474-6300  
Fax: (312) 474-0448